

Message Text

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14

ACTION FDRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 OC-05 ISO-00 CCO-00 PASS-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07 IO-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 OPR-02 PC-05 A-01 H-02 NSC-05

/088 W

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O 070100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9978

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0850

AID/AIDAC/PHA/FDRC

DEPT PASS AMEMBASSIES: MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA,
MEXICO, USUN NY, USMISSION GENEVA, SECDEF NIACT, JCS NIACT, AND
USCINCSO NIACT

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE-PROGRESS REPORT ON 100-BED FIELD
HOSPITAL

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.1. FIRST UNITS OF US ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL DEPARTED GUATEMALA
CITY AIRPORT FOR CHIMALTENANGO AT 1615 HOURS FEB 6, FOLLOWING
RECEIPT OF CONFIRMATION AT 1530 HOURS/ FROM TWO SEPARATE US
MISSIONS GROUPS WHO HAD RECONNOITERED HIGHWAY
BY CAR. BOTH REPORTED THAT HIGHWAY IS PASSABLE AS FAR AS
CHIMALTENANGO, DESPITE ONE-WAY TRAFFIC NECESSITATED IN
VAIOUS PLACED BY LANDSLIDES AND SHORT DETOUR AT EDGE OF
GUATEMALA CITY DUE TO DAMAGE TO HIGHWAY AT SUBURB OF MIXCO.

2.HOSPITAL COMMANDER, COL. BIRK, AID PUBLIC HELATH
ADVISOR, AND GOG AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED LOCATE
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HOSPITAL IN FOOTBALL STADIUM LESS THAN ONE KILOMETER
SOUTH OF CHIMALTENANGO. WATER PURIFICATION UNTI WILL

BE LOCATED AT SMALL LAKE THREE KMS. SOUTH OF TOWN.
COL. DE LA CRUZ, CHAIRMAN, EMERGENCY COMMITTEE, HAS
APPROVED.

3. MILGP AND HOSPITAL TEAM HOPE TO HAVE ALL OF
HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT NOW IN GUATEMALA IN PLACE IN
CHIMALTENANGO AND TO BEGIN TREATING THEIR FIRST PATIENTS
TONIGHT. THREE C-141'S WITH REMAINDER OF HOSPITAL ARE
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT 1800, 1930, AND 2030 HOURS
FEB 6. THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE HELD AT GUATEMALAN
AIRPORT READY TO ROLL AND WILL LEAVE FOR CHIMALTENANGO
AT FIRST LIGHT FEB 7.

4. TO BALANCE THIS GOOD NEWS, EMBASSY OFFICER HAS JUST
VISITED GUATEMALA CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL(ZONE 1) TO
CHECK REPORT FROM EMERGENCY COMMITTEE THAT IT HAD
BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED BY NOON QUAKE FEBRUARY 6. HE
FOUND HOSPITAL EVACUATED DUE TO LARGE CRACKS IN
STRUCTURE AND ALMOST TOTAL LOSS OF WINDOWS AND 500
PATIENTS BEING CARED FOR ON GROUNDS. OPERATING ROOM
LOCATED IN SMALL TENT IN COURTYARD. HOSPITAL OFFICIALS
TOLD EMBOFF THEY WOULD MOVE PATIENTS AT LEAST
TEMPORARILY TO EXHIBITION HALLS AT INDUSTRIAL PART
(ZONE 9). BECAUSE OF TRANSFER HOSPITAL HAS BEEN
OBLIGED TO SUSPEND EVEN EMERGENCY ROOM TREATMENT FOR
NEXT 72 HOURS. MISSION IS EXAMINING URGENTLY HOW WE
MAY ASSIST.
MELOY

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